

What is claimed is:

1 1. A web tuner apparatus comprising:
 2 a first means for storing at least one of a plurality of relationships between
 3 a user definable identifier for a media source and a source of a media stream;
 4 a means for remotely controlling receiving, and selecting media, and for
 5 receiving an input of said at least one of a plurality of relationships between a user
 6 definable identifier and a media source;
 7 a means for displaying information about media sources and receiving
 8 input of a selection of a media stream to be played;
 9 a means for selecting one of said at least one of a plurality of types of
 10 media to receive based upon said input of a selection of a media stream to be played;
 11 a means for receiving at least one of a plurality of types of media; and
 12 an output interface means for providing a media output selected by said
 13 means for selecting.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said media includes at least one
 2 selected from cable television, television broadcast, radio broadcast, world wide web, and
 3 Internet based information.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one of a plurality of
 2 relationships between a user definable identifier and a media source comprises a logical
 3 channel table.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said means for remotely
 2 controlling receiving, and selecting media comprises a channel service user interface for a
 3 plurality of media types, wherein said sources of media are mapped into logical channel
 4 values.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
 2 a network interface means for providing connectivity to a server.

1 6. A web station apparatus comprising:
 2 a means for storing subscriber URL information, said information
 3 comprising at least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, said categories providing

4 organization for identifiers of media content for at least one of a plurality of sources of
 5 media streams;
 6 a network interface means for providing connectivity to an Internet;
 7 a means for searching said hierarchical categories in said subscriber URL
 8 information to find media having content of interest; and
 9 a means for providing said content of interest to a user.

1 7. The web station apparatus of claim 6, wherein said media further
 2 comprises at least one selected from cable television, television broadcast, radio
 3 broadcast, world wide web, and Internet based information.

1 8. The web station apparatus of claim 6, wherein said means for
 2 storing subscriber URL information further comprises at least one of a plurality of
 3 relational categories that organize said media content.

1 9. The web station apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a means
 2 for storing personal channel information, wherein a personal channel table stored locally
 3 at a user site is mirrored by said means for storing personal channel information, enabling
 4 users to reference said channel table from remote locations.

1 10. A system comprising:
 2 a web station;
 3 a web tuner; and
 4 a network interface providing connectivity to an Internet; and enabling the
 5 web station to be accessed by the tuner;
 6 wherein the web tuner maintains personal channel information for at least
 7 one of a plurality of users; and wherein the web station maintains a copy of the said
 8 personal channel information for at least one of a plurality of users.

1 11. A computer-readable storage medium storing program code for
 2 causing a computer to:
 3 retrieve at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source of media
 4 streams to be played;
 5 display said at least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source of
 6 media streams to be played;

7 select, via a user interface, a media stream to be played from at least one of
 8 a plurality of media to receive, said selecting performed by selecting one from said at
 9 least one of a plurality of identifiers for a media source of media streams to be played;
 10 command a switch to select said media stream to be played from among
 11 said at least one of a plurality of types of media received by at least one receiver; and
 12 output said media stream to be played via an output interface.

1 12. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein said
 2 identifiers comprise user definable identifiers, said user definable identifiers being stored
 3 in a first personal information store.

1 13. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the
 2 program code further causes the computer to:
 3 forward from a first location a copy of said first personal information store
 4 to a server;
 5 create at said server a copy of said first personal information store; and
 6 access said copy of said first personal information store to retrieve said at
 7 least one of a plurality of user definable identifiers for a media source of media streams to
 8 be played from a second location at a later time.

1 14. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the
 2 program code further causes the computer to:
 3 store a user definable identifier for a media source of a media stream being
 4 played currently, said user definable identifier being stored in a first personal information
 5 store.

1 15. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein said
 2 identifiers are stored in a subscriber URL information store.

1 16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein the
 2 program code further causes the computer to:
 3 store an identifier for a media source, said identifier being stored in a
 4 subscriber URL information store, said subscriber URL information store comprising at
 5 least one of a plurality of hierarchical categories, said categories providing organization
 6 for identifiers of media content.

1 17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 15, wherein the
 2 program code further causes the computer to:
 3 select via a user interface a related media stream to be played, said related
 4 media stream to be played having content related to said media stream to be played, said
 5 selecting performed by selecting one from at least one of a plurality of URL identifiers
 6 for said media stream to be played; and thereupon selecting a second URL identifier
 7 corresponding to said related media stream to be played..

1 18. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein said
 2 media further comprises media of disparate types, wherein said types of media include at
 3 least one selected from cable television, television broadcast, radio broadcast, world wide
 4 web, and Internet based information.

1 19. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 12, wherein the
 2 program code further causes the computer to:
 3 receive an identity of a user; and
 4 provide a plurality of user definable identifiers for said user.

1 20. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the
 2 program code further causes the computer to:
 3 scan an input source for at least one of a plurality of receivable television
 4 channels;
 5 map said at least one of a plurality of receivable television channels to at
 6 least one of a plurality of identifiers;
 7 scan an input source for at least one of a plurality of receivable radio
 8 frequencies;
 9 map said at least one of a plurality of receivable radio frequencies to at
 10 least one of a plurality of identifiers;
 11 scan an input source for at least one of a plurality of internet based media
 12 sources; and
 13 map said at least one of a plurality of internet based media sources to at
 14 least one of a plurality of identifiers.